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Summary: Comparing Feudalisms

Feudal systems are considered less sophisticated versions of political societies moving towards more centralized and organized government. In the West and Japan, feudal systems developed, but in both regions, there were different versions of feudalism occurring. In the west, feudalism had developed into more of a parliamentary institution, whereas in Japan there was a grouping of “teams” and individual loyalties. Feudalism in Japan was not as “united” or institutionalized as its western counterpart. Both feudal systems however were grounded in a set of political values that embraced the participants in each system. Both were highly militaristic in part because of the bitter and internal warfare raging through each area. Elite military virtues surfaced and dominated each nation’s society and soon, the core values of the west and Japan were physical courage, personal/family alliances, loyalty, and ritualized combat.